

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W

-----231541 012422 /44

R 231410Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5853

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0865

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY. ACTING FONMIN CALLEJAS TOLD POLOFF THAT FONMIN PALMA'S VISIT TO THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WAS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO POINT UP THE GOES' FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT A BORDER CENSUS. HE SAID THAT THE GOH IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF THE DISPUTE WITH EL SALVADOR. CALLEJAS ALSO REMARKED THAT HONDURAS HAS DRAWN UP A NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET DRAFT TREATY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE GOH ENVISIONS THE PARALLEL NEGOTIATION OF THE BILATERAL DISPUTE AND THE COMMON MARKET DURING THE NEXT NINE MONTHS TO ONE YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. POLOFF CALLED ON ACTING FONMIN POLICARPO CALLEJAS THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 22. CALLEJAS SAID THAT FONMIN PALMA'S STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WAS TO REGISTER A COMPLAINT THAT EL SALVADOR HAD FAILED TO IMPLEMENT ITS PART IN CONDUCTING
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A BORDER CENSUS. THE FONMIN ALSO POINTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE THAT TELEVISION BROADCASTS FROM EL SALVADOR WERE URGING HONDURANS LIVING IN BORDER AREAS TO ANNEX THOSE AREAS TO EL SALVADOR; HE ASKED SECGEN ORFILA TO HELP END THE CAMPAIGN IN HIS VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA. CALLEJAS SAID THAT THE FONMIN ALSO DELIVERED A CHECK TO THE OAS FOR THE HONDURAN PORTION OF THE OBSERVER COSTS.

2. CALLEJAS COMMENTED THAT THE GOH IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A RATIFICATION OF THE MEDIATION AGREEMENT BY THE GOES. HE REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA OF EL SALVADOR HAD TOLD CHEIF OF STATE MELGAR IN DECEMBER THAT THE GOES WOULD RATIFY THE AGREEMENT SOON AFTER THE ELECTION. HE COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT ROMERO'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS ALSO INDICATED A DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD.

3. CALLEJAS COMMENTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A MEETING IN SAN JOSE TEN DAYS AFTER THE RATIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS TO SELECT A MEDIATOR, AS PRESCRIBED IN THE AGREEMENT. HE REMARKED THAT AFTER RATIFICATION, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH COUNTRY TO MEET AND SELECT A LIST OF FOUR OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL JURISTS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. THE PROCESS WOULD THEN SIMPLY INVOLVE DRAWING A NAME FROM THE LIST IN SAN JOSE.

4. HE STATED THAT HONDURAS HAS DRAFTED A PROPOSED TEXT OF A TREATY TO DEVELOP A NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET. HE SAID THAT THE TEXT IS MUCH SHORTER THAN THE FORMER SIECA DRAFT AND DEALS WITH THE BASIC ISSUES INVOLVED IN INTEGRATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DETAILS OF THE TREATY COULD BE ADDED IN SUBSEQUENT PROTOCOLS.

5. COMMENT. THE GOH ENVISIONS A PARALLEL TRACK DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDIATION TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS OF A NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET. THE HONDURAN LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THESE EFFORTS CAN BE CARRIED ON AT THE SAME TIME AND THAT IT

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WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT FINAL AGREEMENTS ON BOTH. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, FROM THE GOH VIEWPOINT, FOR AN AGREEMENT ON THE COMMON MARKET TO BE APPROVED UNTIL THERE IS A RESOLUTION OF THE BILATERAL DISPUTE. FURTHERMORE, A REOPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL THE BILATERAL DISPUTE IS RESOLVED. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE NEXT YEAR WILL BE CRUCIAL IN DECIDING WHETHER THERE WILL BE AGREEMENTS ON THE DISPUTE AND THE COMMON MARKET.
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Message Attributes

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